

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7686

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 3725

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (JAMES R. SCHLESINGER), CA

SUBJ: SECDEF'S OTTAWA VISIT SEPTEMBER 15/16

WITH REFERENCE TO OTTAWA JOURNAL ARTICLE REPORTED REFTTEL, PRIMIN TRUDEAU'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER IVAN HEAD TOLD POLCOUNSELOR SEPTEMBER 24 THAT VIEWS EXPRESSED IN EDITORIAL BY NO MEANS REPRESENT THE VIEWS WITHIN THE GOC, LEAST OF ALL THOSE OF THE PRIME MINISTER. ON THE CONTRARY, SECDEF HAD BEEN ASKED BY GOC TO COME TO OTTAWA SPECIFICALLY TO EXPRESS HIS THINKING ON CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO COMMON DEFENSE, A MATTER OF LEGITIMATE CONCERN TO ALLIANCE LEADER, AND MR. SCHLESINGER HAD DONE SO WITH GREAT TACT AND LOGIC. HEAD SAID SCHLESINGER HAD BEEN SO PERSUASIVE THAT SOME TOP OFFICIALS IN DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE (DND) HAD JUMPED TO CONCLUSION THAT GOC MUST CHANGE ITS SCALE OF DEFENSE PRIORITIES, PUTTING DEFENSE OF CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY BELOW NATO, WITHOUT WAITING FOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM CABINET. DND HAD PRACTICALLY WRITTEN OUT AN ORDER FOR NEW TANKS. HEAD STATED THAT ANY ACTION MUST AWAIT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DEFENSE STRUCTURE REVIEW WHICH HE ESTIMATED WOULD BE READY IN TIME FOR A CABINET DECISION BEFORE CHRISTMAS. JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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